

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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SUNDAY.....JANUARY 20, 1889.

The Tobacco Tax.—The total abolition of the tax on tobacco would do more to strengthen the Democratic party in Virginia next fall than would any change that we can think of in the tariff. The tax is an odious one. It operates to the injury of rising young men who have only a small capital, but who have business tact and talent and who would go into the business of manufacturing tobacco if that business required no more money for its successful prosecution than it used to cost before the war between the States took place.

The whole internal revenue system ought to be abolished. Our Federal lawmakers ought to hold internal taxes in reserve for extraordinary emergencies. We do not now need the money raised by these taxes. When a war comes on it will be good policy to levy them again. But in these piping times of peace we ought to content ourselves with the revenues that come from other sources. The country would feel stronger if there were such a source of financial strength kept ready for the Government to use whenever war should come. A wise financier or banker always keeps a reserve fund. The internal taxes ought to be held as a reserve fund, so to speak. We ought not to make a demand upon all our resources except in extraordinary emergencies.

In time of war patriotism has full possession of the breasts of the people, and makes them willing to do and suffer for the good of the country much more than they are willing to suffer at other times. An income tax of 5 per cent. was patiently submitted to for several years, even after the war between the States had ended. So was a tax of two dollars per gallon upon whisky, as well as one of forty cents per pound upon tobacco. But it was not very long after the war ended before the people began to agitate for the abolition or reduction of these taxes. The income tax was soon done away with, though an income tax is the fairest of all taxes. It was abolished by the Republicans because almost all of it was collected in the northern States. Under the law Massachusetts and New York paid a due share of the expenses of the Government. They pay now not much more than half the amount they ought to pay for that purpose. The internal taxes abolished by the Republican party were taxes that were paid by the rich. The tax on tobacco is a tax upon the poor. It comes out of the pockets of the workingmen. It is odious because it adds to the cost of the only innocent luxury which a poor man can indulge in.

As the whiskey-makers are opposed to the abolition of the tax on whisky, so some of the largest manufacturers of tobacco in the land are opposed to the abolition of the tax on tobacco. Why? Because they know that they would have to meet the competition of thousands of enterprising young men who cannot become their rivals so long as they have to pay a tax of more than a hundred dollars upon every hogshead of tobacco which they use.

The tobacco-plasters must know that their interests cannot be the same as the interests of the huge monopolies alluded to; and they ought never to cease agitation until the tax on tobacco is removed. The spies, informers, and plunders ought to be dismissed from Government employment and put to work in some honest calling.

PRIESTLY'S BLACK GOODS.—Emperor William has discharged his French cooks." It is well for a man to be patriotic, even in having the dyspepsia.

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LOUISA COUNTY.—The Interference with the Public School at Exports—a State of the Facts.

TERVILLETON, VA., January 19, 1889.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

In designating the date Quaker fashion which is correct—state the day of the month first, as 1, 15, 1889. You will kindly accept through the columns of your paper. A SUBSCRIBER.

Answer: 1, 18, 1889.

BRIEF COMMENT.

Here Most says "an attack has been made on his life." The idea of any one wanting Most's life.

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